

The City of Kennesaw has achieved many noteworthy recognitions.

1. Kennesaw was selected as one of the "**Top 25 Cities and Towns with the Best American Values**" in the May 2009 edition of *Newsmax*

Magazine

. In choosing Kennesaw, the editors cited the city's excellent school systems, low crime rate, air quality, green spaces and easily accessible family-friendly activities.

2. The annual Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival was named one of the **Top 25 BBQ Events/Festivals in the US**

by the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Pigs & Peaches is the KCBS-sanctioned championship for the state of Georgia.

3. The City was recognized in 2009 as a Platinum-Level **Start! Fit-Friendly Employer** by the American Heart Association's Start! movement for helping employees eat better and move more. A voluntary comprehensive wellness program offered to the city staff encourages and rewards a healthy lifestyle.

4. In 2008, the City was designated a **Tree City USA community** by the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation recognizes cities and towns that plant and care for the community forest. It is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

5. Kennesaw was selected by *Family Circle* Magazine as one of the nation's "**10 Best Towns for Families.**"

The article appeared in the magazine's August 2007 edition. The publication announced the results of its search to identify the best communities across the country that combine big-city opportunities with suburban charm, a blend of affordable housing, good jobs, top-rated schools, wide-open spaces and a lot less stress.

Family Circle

is a monthly magazine with a circulation of 3.9 million and has approximately 20 million readers.

6. In 2004, Kennesaw was designated a **Preserve America Community** by First Lady Laura Bush. The Preserve America program is a White House effort to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. This program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.